

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for transferring content from one computer resource to another computer resource, comprising the steps of:

5 intercepting the transfer to a destination of one or more information elements selected from a source;

performing a compatibility check for each intercepted information element with the destination by consulting one or more user-configurable compatibility rules to classify elements as incompatible or compatible;

- 10 for each incompatible element, performing a compatibility handling action as defined by one or more conversion rules; and
- for each compatible element, allowing transfer of the unmodified

15 2. The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

invoking a rule management user interface responsive to finding no existing compatibility rule for an element to be transferred; and allowing, via said rule management user interface, a user action selected from the list of creating a new compatibility rule, deleting a compatibility rule, and modifying a compatibility rule.

3. The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
 - invoking a rule management user interface responsive to finding no existing conversion rule for an element to be transferred; and
5. allowing, via said rule management user interface, a user action selected from the list of creating a new conversion rule, deleting a conversion rule, and modifying a conversion rule.
4. The method as set forth in Claim 3 wherein said steps of creating and
10 modifying a conversion rule comprise creating and modifying a conversion rule which specifies performing an action selected from the group of converting a text element from one format to another format, converting a graphic image element from one format to another format, converting a video clip element from one format to another format, converting an audio clip element from one format to another format, converting animated image element from one format to another format, isolating an element, isolating an element and transferring an annotation to said destination, isolating an element and transferring a hyperlinked annotation to said destination.
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- 20 5. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of performing a compatibility handling action comprises performing an action selected from the list of converting a text element from one format to another format,

- converting a graphic image element from one format to another format,
converting a video clip element from one format to another format, converting
an audio clip element from one format to another format, converting animated
image element from one format to another format, isolating an element,
5 isolating an element and transferring an annotation to said destination,
isolating an element and transferring a hyperlinked annotation to said
destination.
6. A computer readable medium encoded with software for transferring content
from one computer resource to another computer resource, said software
10 performing the steps of:
intercepting the transfer to a destination of one or more information
elements selected from a source;
performing a compatibility check for each intercepted information
element with the destination by consulting one or more user-configurable
15 compatibility rules to classify elements as incompatible or compatible;
for each incompatible element, performing a compatibility handling
action as defined by one or more conversion rules; and
for each compatible element, allowing transfer of the unmodified
20 compatible element to the destination.
7. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 6 further comprising

software for performing the steps of:

invoking a rule management user interface responsive to finding no

existing compatibility rule for an element to be transferred; and

allowing, via said rule management user interface, a user action

selected from the list of creating a new compatibility rule, deleting a
compatibility rule, and modifying a compatibility rule.

8. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 6 further comprising

software for performing the steps of:

invoking a rule management user interface responsive to finding no

existing conversion rule for an element to be transferred; and

allowing, via said rule management user interface, a user action

selected from the list of creating a new conversion rule, deleting a conversion
rule, and modifying a conversion rule.

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9. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said

software for creating and modifying a conversion rule comprises software for

creating and modifying a conversion rule which specifies performing an action

selected from the group of converting a text element from one format to

20 another format, converting a graphic image element from one format to

another format, converting a video clip element from one format to another

format, converting an audio clip element from one format to another format,

converting animated image element from one format to another format,
isolating an element, isolating an element and transferring an annotation to
said destination, isolating an element and transferring a hyperlinked
annotation to said destination.

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10. The computer readable medium as set forth in Claim 6 wherein said
software for performing a compatibility handling action comprises software
for performing an action selected from the list of converting a text element
from one format to another format, converting a graphic image element from
one format to another format, converting a video clip element from one format
to another format, converting an audio clip element from one format to
another format, converting animated image element from one format to
another format, isolating an element, isolating an element and transferring an
annotation to said destination, isolating an element and transferring a
hyperlinked annotation to said destination.
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11. A system for automatically transferring content from one computer resource to
another computer resource, comprising:
a transfer interceptor configured to intercept one or more information
elements selected from a source prior to insertion into a destination;
20 a compatibility checker adapted to verify the compatibility of each
intercepted information element with the destination by consulting one or

more user-configurable compatibility rules to classify elements as incompatible or compatible;
a compatibility action handler configured to performing an action as defined by one or more conversion rules for each intercepted information
5 element, and further configured to allowing transfer of said compatible elements to the destination without modification.

12. The system as set forth in Claim 11 further comprising:

a rule management user interface, invoked in response to finding no existing compatibility rule for an element to be transferred; and
one or more user options provided via said rule management user interface, for selecting a compatibility rule management action from the list of creating a new compatibility rule, deleting a compatibility rule, and modifying a compatibility rule.

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13. The system as set forth in Claim 11 further comprising:

a rule management user interface, invoked in response to finding no existing conversion rule for an element to be transferred; and
one or more user options provided via said rule management user interface, for selecting a user action from the list of creating a new conversion rule, deleting a conversion rule, and modifying a conversion rule.

14. The system as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said user action list comprises at least one action selected from the list of creating and modifying a conversion rule which specifies performing an action selected from the group of converting a text element from one format to another format, converting a graphic image element from one format to another format, converting a video clip element from one format to another format, converting an audio clip element from one format to another format, converting animated image element from one format to another format, isolating an element, isolating an element and transferring an annotation to said destination, isolating an element and transferring a hyperlinked annotation to said destination.
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15. The system as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said compatibility action handler is further configured to perform an action selected from the list of converting a text element from one format to another format, converting a graphic image element from one format to another format, converting a video clip element from one format to another format, converting an audio clip element from one format to another format, converting animated image element from one format to another format, isolating an element, isolating an element and transferring an annotation to said destination, isolating an element and transferring a hyperlinked annotation to said destination.
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